

**Regular Council Meeting
October 11, 2011**

I. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Marse called to order the regularly scheduled council meeting of October 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor J. M. Marse, Council members Elizabeth Brannon, Ray Jackson, Earl King, Charlie Simmons and Harold Taunton. Staff present: City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, Fire Chief Ben Greenslait, Parks Director Shane Supple, City Planner Latilda Henninger and City Clerk Robin Haynes.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of past minutes

None were presented.

1. Planning Issues

Ms. Henninger gave a brief description on a pilot program – Waterfronts Florida. She will update council as more information is available.

2. Legal Matters

Attorney Adkinson informed the council a lawsuit against the City has been filed in federal court. It has been turned over to the insurance company to determine possible coverage.

A. Promissory note – Highway 331 utility relocation (Old Business #3)

Attorney Adkinson expressed concerns that the proposed promissory note with the Florida Department of Transportation for the relocation of the utility lines may affect future funding options for the City (requires pledging of water and sewer revenues). He will contact Mr. Tim Smith and discuss possible revisions to the note.

3. Fire Department Report

Mayor Marse stated that Greg Kisela, Walton County Administrator, has proposed keeping the City funding at the same amount as budgeted, and recommending to the Walton County Board of County Commissioners the waiving of the remaining balance of the fire department loan, approximately \$70,000.00. It will go before the County meeting at the end of the month.

4. Parks Department Report

Councilman Taunton motioned to approve Shane requesting three proposals for the division of the electric meters at the sports complex, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

IV. Old Business

1. Approval request – Town Planters/ March Arts & Crafts Show

Councilman Simmons motioned to approve the use of the City hall parking lot on March 24, 2012 for the Town Planters Arts and Crafts Show, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

2. Approval request – water operator position recommendation

Councilman King motioned to hire Ben Lewis for the water operator position, starting at a salary of \$47,000.00 and with a hire date of October 31, Councilman Taunton seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

3. Promissory note – Highway 331 utility line relocation

Addressed under legal items.

4. Energy Grant

A. Approval request – re-ranking of energy audit evaluations

Councilman King motioned to approve the re-ranking of the energy audit evaluations as presented, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

B. Approval request – revised contract/energy audit

Councilman Jackson motioned to approve the revised energy audit contract as presented, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

C. Approval request – Award of project

1. Motor replacement – water & sewer department

2. Solar panel installation & lighting retrofit – Freeport Regional Sports Complex

Charley Cotton, representing Preble-Rish, informed the council that the bids received for the energy grant came in above the budgeted amount:

	Contract A	Contract B
• Wise Service, Inc.	N/A	\$208,602.00
• Wisco Pen Electric	\$214,400.00	\$180,450.00
• Palmer Electric	N/A	\$239,454.00
• Advanced Roofing	\$218,746.00	N/A
• Compass Solar Energy	\$234,694.64	N/A

Wisco Pen Electric is the apparent low bidder for both contracts, but is over budget on both contracts. Mr. Bob Jones recommended awarding the low bidder subject to the Department of Energy approving an amendment to the scope of work to try to get the project price below budget. No council action was taken; the item is to be brought back to the next regular council meeting.

5. Engineering Continuing Services

A. Approval of firm rankings

Councilman Taunton motioned to approve the rankings as submitted (attached), with Preble-Rish being first, Praestare Engineering second and Garver as third, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

B. Determination of firms to negotiate/date for negotiations

Councilman King motioned to negotiate with the top three firms, Councilman Taunton seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

Councilman King motioned to set a special meeting for negotiations on Tuesday, October 18th at 7:00 pm, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

V. New Business

1. Pay all bills in order

Councilman Taunton motioned to pay all bills in orders, Councilman Simmons seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

VI. Council Business Not On Agenda

Clerk Haynes gave each councilmember a copy of the recent tank inspections conducted by Praestare Engineering.

Councilman Taunton asked about the status of the no-wake signs for Four Mile Creek. Clerk Haynes was directed to look into it.

VII. Public Comment

None was presented.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Robin Haynes, City Clerk

Earl King, Council President